

We claim:

1. A composition, for treating a cellulosic material, which
5 comprises a hydroxyl-functional phosphorus ester containing at least two phosphorus atoms therein, a melamine-formaldehyde resin, optionally one or more N-methylol functional resin(s), a curing catalyst.
2. A composition as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the curing
10 catalyst is an ammonium salt.
3. A composition as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the curing catalyst comprises a mixture of a Lewis acid catalyst and a carboxylic acid.
4. A composition as claimed in Claim 3 wherein the carboxylic
15 acid is citric acid.
5. A composition as claimed in Claim 3 wherein the Lewis acid catalyst is magnesium dichloride.
6. A composition as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the curing
20 catalyst is selected from the group consisting of phosphorous acid and phosphoric acid.
7. A composition as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the hydroxyl-functional phosphorus ester is selected from the group consisting of a mixed phosphate/phosphonate ester of CAS No. 70715-06-9 and a phosphate ester formed by reacting triethyl phosphate, phosphorus
25 pentoxide, ethylene glycol and ethylene oxide.
8. A composition as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the hydroxyl-functional phosphorus ester is a mixed phosphate/phosphonate ester.
9. A composition as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the hydroxyl-functional phosphorus ester is a polyphosphate.
- 30 10. A composition as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the hydroxyl-functional phosphorus ester is a polyphosphonate.

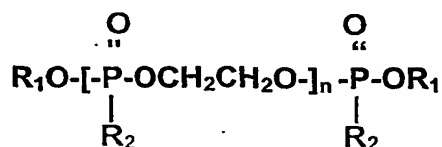
11. A composition as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the composition contains DMDHEU as the N-methylol functional resin.

12. A composition as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the curing catalyst is an ammonium chloride solution, the hydroxyl-functional phosphorus ester is selected from the group consisting of a mixed phosphate/phosphonate ester of CAS No. 70715-06-9 and a phosphate ester formed by reacting triethyl phosphate, phosphorus pentoxide, ethylene glycol and ethylene oxide, and the composition contains DMDHEU as the N-methylol functional resin.

13. A composition as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the curing catalyst comprises a mixture of magnesium dichloride and citric acid, the hydroxyl-functional phosphorus ester is selected from the group consisting of a mixed phosphate/phosphonate ester of CAS No. 70715-06-9 and a phosphate ester formed by reacting triethyl phosphate, phosphorus pentoxide, ethylene glycol and ethylene oxide, and the composition contains DMDHEU as the N-methylol functional resin.

14. A composition as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the curing catalyst is phosphorous acid, the hydroxyl-functional phosphorus ester is selected from the group consisting of a mixed phosphate/phosphonate ester of CAS No. 70715-06-9 and a phosphate ester formed by reacting triethyl phosphate, phosphorus pentoxide, ethylene glycol and ethylene oxide, and the composition contains DMDHEU as the N-methylol functional resin.

15. A composition as claimed in any of Claims 1-14 wherein the hydroxyl-functional phosphorus ester conforms to the following formula:



where R_1 is independently selected from alkyl and hydroxyalkyl, R_2 is independently selected from alkyl, alkoxy, and hydroxyalkoxy, and n is equal to or greater than 1.

- 5 16. A fabric that has been treated with the composition of any of Claims 1-15.